

News Release

June 28, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

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www.INCIWEB.org

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*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m. (24 hour recorded message)



Firefighters Stand Their Ground Despite Strong Winds

Wednesday's fire operations on the Russell's Camp Fire proceeded without any setbacks despite gusting winds. Fire crews continued to hold and secure line around the fire's perimeter. With containment percentages increasing, resources that were no longer needed were released to other incidents along the Front Range of Colorado, South Dakota and Montana.

Red Flag Warnings are in place today until 8:00 p.m. for the fire area. This marks the seventh consecutive day of Red Flag Warnings. Winds of 20-30 mph with possible gusts of 45 mph are expected again today.

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team has been ordered for this incident. The team will assess potential rehabilitation needs for issues such as soil stabilization and invasive species encroachment. If an emergency response is warranted, they will provide a plan to forest officials with rehabilitation and monitoring recommendations. BAER team members are expected to arrive today.

Wednesday's operations will include:

On the south, east, and west sides of the fire there is no change in fire operations. Minimal fire activity is expected. Holding and improving hand and dozer lines continues. Crews will also continue mopping upⁱ in areas of containment.

The northwest to the northeast sides will continue mop up in all areas of this division. There is still potential for fire spread in the area. Engines will be available to assist as needed.

Air Operations: Aviation resources are available to assist fire crews as needed. Division F continues to be patrolled by air. Several aviation resources were released yesterday to other fires in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Road closures are in place and closed to all recreation traffic. We ask that the public respect the need for the closures and find alternate routes of travel. Please be aware of heavy traffic related to the incident along Cold Springs Road. Road blocks will be in place on the road near the Converse County and Albany County line, County Road #62 (Little Medicine Road), and County Road#24 (Cold Springs Road) & near the bottom of Cold Springs Road.

Evacuations:

- There is no serious threat to the Fetterman Road. Residents living along this area can return to their homes/cabins. If conditions were to change voluntary evacuations will be reinstated.
- Volunteer evacuations are still in place for homes/cabins along Meadow Creek Road, and Cold Springs Road south of Meadow Creek Road. Residents who choose to evacuate their homes are asked to contact the Converse County Sheriff's Office to advise them.

Fire stats at a glance:**Start Date:** June 17th, 2012**Containment:** 60%**Cause:** Under investigation/Possible Lightning**Acreage:** 5,466**Personnel:** 505**Crews:** 12**Cooperating Agencies:** Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming**Aviation:** (2) Type 3 Helicopters**Engines:** 21**Dozers:** 1**Water Tenders:** 4**Injuries:** 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)**Structures destroyed:** 0**Structures/outbuildings threatened:** 20**Structures damaged:** 1**Unit Identifiers:** 122 (number of agencies/units assisting)

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MEDIA NOTES:

Due to the increase of fire activity in the nation there has been an impact to the InciWeb site. If you experience difficulties the news releases will be posted at: <http://tinyurl.com/NewsRussellsCampFire>.

Today is the last day that fire personnel will be available at the Douglas Grocery store from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. to answer questions in regards to current status of the fire.

Twitter: @MBRNFsTBNG

ⁱ Mopping Up – Extinguishing or removing burning material near the control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after a fire has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>